

# AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norant  
Agricolos." . . . VIRG.

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## AGRICULTURE.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

### W. A. DANGERFIELD ON THE USE OF OXEN.

*Practical remarks on the use of Oxen in the Plough, and their very advantageous connexion with the economical improvement of exhausted land.—Addressed to the Agricultural Society in Prince George's County, October Session, 1820.*

Our subject is dry, yet we hope, not wholly uninteresting. Its very nature greatly precludes susceptibility of ornament from speculation, and we earnestly desire to treat it only in strict conformity to practical detail. It has been selected, therefore because the use of the ox, for plough-draft more especially, is already brought, by the importance of that mode of applying his labour, fully under the consideration of the agricultural public. The economy that necessarily connects with this use of him, is highly worthy of our notice, who, for the most part, cultivate exhausted farms. It is the duty, then of those who have experience on this practical point, to impart its results freely and candidly. Besides we have long since been strongly impressed with the belief, that the best views of this board will be most successfully promoted, by its members bringing before it, from time to time, such results of their observation, as may have been patiently and faithfully collected, and that have the evidence of facts to support them.—For many years, we have used oxen on our farms, and the longer we continue to do so, the more we feel disposed to put a high value on the merits of their labour. It is not pretended to state here, in minute detail, the comparative merits of horses and oxen, used for the various purposes of agriculture, but to limit, in a considerable degree, our comparative observations to the plough, and the economy that respects the first cost and subsequent keep of those animals. Comparative estimates, of a general nature, have repeatedly been made on this topic, and with various decisions, according, perhaps to the original prepossessions of those who made them, and the relative circumstances of the lands to which their labour has been respectively applied, such as locality, state of fertility, size of farms, &c. &c.\*

As we have given some attention to the sub-

\* The economy so strongly recommended in this communication, has thoroughly been considered as a relative one. There is one relative circumstance of considerable importance, which has never been directly stated. It is the size of the farm. This is a very material consideration, because where it exists, the stock kept for the purpose of consuming and converting into manure the offal, may be in summer, for the most part, fed on the waste land necessarily attendant on a farm of this sort. In this case, the artificial grasses, seeded for the purpose of improving will be less trespassed on, and the quantity of stock will be more adequate to the converting of its offal into manure.

ject matter of this communication, we may hereafter, humbly attempt a comparative view on a larger scale, and much more in detail. In it we shall studiously endeavour to escape, at once, the charge of prejudice, and a sort of criticism, in attempting to make for ourselves a hobby-horse of an ox. Not being yet provided with a threshing machine, we are obliged to keep horses for the indispensable purpose of treading out our small grain,—we, therefore, have an ample opportunity of judging comparatively between them and oxen in the plough.—To this circumstance much attention has been given, whilst they have been ploughing, at the same time, in long circular bouts, when, and we are free to admit it, the horses have often turned the oxen out of the furrow; yet we have known the latter to retaliate sometimes—we cannot therefore, resist the conclusion, that horses are of quicker draft in the plough. But when we consider the improvement, that is easy to make in the quickness of the step of the ox, by a better mode of breaking him, than is at present generally practised; the greater depth and width of the furrow of a four-ox plough, of proper construction, than of that of a three horse one; we feel ourselves warranted in the inference that the superior quickness of the horse is practically of little importance. Besides we should take into our comparative estimate the better work the former plough does, from its greater steadiness of draft, in all sorts of land, more especially where there exists the impediments of stones, stumps and trees, &c.—Our experiments have not been, as yet, minutely accurate enough to decide with certainty what is a good day's work for a three-horse plough of the most approved construction. Nothing, therefore, can be said in the way of satisfactory comparison, on this point. We can state, however a fact relative to the four-ox plough, from which others may be able to make comparative inferences:—Last November we ploughed well, with a four-ox plough, not of the best size nor construction, twelve acres of land, mostly sodded with blue grass, in ten days. The quality of land was to our satisfaction, ascertained by stepping, a mode of measuring too inaccurate, it must be confessed, to meet the sanction of the board, which is in duty bound, to encourage the most precise accuracy in all experimental details, that may be brought before it; yet it was the best conveniently within our reach, at the time. Our mode of working oxen in the plough, is with the common yoke and chain, to which we at present, see no objection that is conclusively forcible. This part of our subject has been brought in question of late, and the preference given to the method which makes the horns the point of support to the drawing force, a mode that certainly places the plough, contrary to horse principle, at a greater distance from that point than the yoke does. It has been attempted, to support the draft by the horns, by an argument taken from analogy, which does not, however, appear to us to be completely satisfactory. 'Tis stated that the bull, when he is

about to fight, bends down his head, and thereby places himself in a position in which his is capable of exerting his greatest strength. Hence it is inferred, that the ox, when attached to the plough, should be so fixed as to give him the same position, when he is compelled to draw it, after him—strength in both instances, to take a proper view of it, should be considered relatively to its use or object. When the bull is about to fight his object is to defend himself at one time, and at another to injure his adversary by his horns, his most natural means of offence and defence. To do this then, in what better position could he be placed, than in that which would enable him, by his head being bent down, either to receive on his horns and avert the blow of his enemy, or to strike an unguarded point with them? then by the action of the extensor muscles, or those which straighten the neck, to bruise, gore, or lacerate that part to the full extent of the surface, over which the tips of his horns may travel. It is therefore, his locomotive powers, aided by his weight, that impel the bull against his adversary, and the strength of the muscles of his neck which enables him, in the manner above stated, to bruise, gore or lacerate him. Not so with the peaceful, honest ox. The object, or the use of his strength is wholly with the husbandman, who wishes him to draw the plough after his heels. Here the locomotive powers, aided by the weight of the animal, act principally. They overcome the resistance caused by the weight of the plough, and the earth through which it passes, if the force, thus necessary to surmount this resistance, rest principally on the swell of the neck, and in some considerable degree also on the shoulder, alternately advanced in making the step of locomotion. It would seem, then, if this reasoning be correct, that the common yoke places the ox in the best possible situation, to exert that force which is naturally brought into action when he pulls the plough, and the instrument itself at the most convenient distance from those points which bear its stress. All this can be readily ascertained by him that will take the trouble of following the plough, and minutely noticing what takes place when that instrument is urged by those very valuable animals in the yoke. Besides all this, the reasoning which we have humbly attempted to examine and refute, may not only be incorrect, but the fact, which has been adduced as its basis may not in reality exist. We can say nothing from our own experience, yet we are informed by very respectable authority, relative to Louisiana, where the French all gear their oxen by the horns, that this mode has a tendency to pull their heads upwards and backwards, rather than downwards, a result which it would not seem very unreasonable to have inferred a priori. We shall reserve for a future time, some remarks we feel disposed to make on the comparative merits of the collar and yoke. As yet the use of oxen has been confined by us, to the largest sized plough of most judicious construction, conceiving, that if this descrip-



tion of plough be faithfully wrought by a competent team, and we deem oxen most competent, that every thing afterwards can be effected by the small ploughs and harrows now commonly in use. Our four-ox ploughs have, heretofore been managed by a man and a boy, ten or twelve years of age, who, placed on the land side opposite the hinder yoke, carries a whip, and by the use of it, and certain words of command causes the near oxen to walk well in the furrow, and all of them to go as fast as the man at the tail of the plough may require.

We think of innovating on our former practice, in this way, in two respects.—Experience and analogy make it probable, that, with blind bridles and a single rein to the near leader, a man alone, with a long whip, and a goad in the end of its staff, for the hinder yoke, will be able to manage well four-oxen. Observations made, whilst following repeatedly an ox plough, induce a belief, that the word of command is most essential to the complete government of those animals. They are to be influenced, principally, through two sources, the touch and the ear, and the impressions on both, particularly the former, are rendered more vivid by the use of blind bridles. This being the case, the single line, attached to the near leader, can be pulled, and with its impression the word of command associated in such a manner, that experience, direct and analogous, becomes every thing which can reasonably be desired. With respect to the whole team, the whip or goad can be addressed to the touch of different individuals, as occasion may require, and the word to the ear, at the same time, the joint effect of which will be the complete subjection of the movements of the whole, to the voice of the intelligent driver, who thus lords it, in the most innocent and useful style of lordling, over four animals of enormous size and immense strength. A person who has not often followed the plough, with a view of learning something of the nature of the ox, can scarcely form an idea, in the abstract, of the degree, in which his docility may be influenced by the above or similar means. To these should be added, when the animal is not at labour, more particularly when he is feeding, the most kind attentions, and unless the driver be disposed to dispense them uniformly, little, comparatively speaking, can be expected from him or his team. It is also contemplated by us, to use the ox, with the collar and harness, in the cart, single plough and harrow. The large ploughs in which we have hitherto wrought oxen, are constructed by Henry M'Kenzie, Aldi, Loudon, Virginia, and Gideon Davis, Georgetown, D. C. To either of these, we have no material objection. Wood's famous plough has not been used in that way, by us as yet. We have used it with horses, and deem it an excellent plough. We are not competent to make comparisons on this subject; if we were, they are disagreeable, and every experienced cultivator must know that every good plough must have, more or less of relative properties; that is properties adapted to different sorts of land; as stiff or light, hilly and stony, or level and free from stone, a turfed surface or not, &c. We cannot, however, deny ourselves the gratification of paying a small tribute to merit, by saying that the number of good properties, combined in Davis' plough, together with its great simplicity, strength, durability and cheapness induce us, under present impressions to say it is

the best we have ever made use of, especially for oxen. It has been thought the plough should be particularly constructed, in some respects for oxen. This opinion, very probably is erroneous, for the ploughs we have generally used them in, were made for horses, and no objection could be made to them on that score. It is therefore possible that this fanciful conceit of the mechanic may have made the instrument less fitted for its purpose, and thereby injured the reputation of the ox-plough in many instances. In Walthrop's patent double shovel plough an instrument well adapted to the purposes for which he recommends it, except being a little too heavy for the horse, when made completely competent, one single ox may, in our opinion, be most advantageously used for the culture of corn, tobacco and the seeding of small grain. In this use of him, the most vivacious and quick stepping should be selected, when we doubt not but as much work may be done in the course of a day, as with the common horse. If oxen be adequate to the working of a threshing machine, as we have been induced to believe, the whole work of a farm may be well done by them, with an immense saving of expense. Here let me be permitted to set forth the most prominent features of our system of economy. They offer themselves to our view in very bold relief.

They are to have the best possible threshing machine, to dispense with the necessity of keeping any horses for farm labour, the best straw-cutter, to make the economy of oxen still more economical, and to use exclusively oxen for all agricultural purposes whatever. If this system of economy were practiced on the exhausted lands of this part of our country, particularly if all the relative circumstances should be suited to it, where profits now scarcely defray expenses, plenty would soon begin to smile. In a short time, its severity might be dispensed with; and under a greatly improved state of the land, horses, for some purposes, might very profitably be used. It is only, where the profits of agriculture pay well, that their expenses can prudently be sustained. We are well aware of the difficulties attendant on innovation, particularly in husbandry; therefore, neither expect nor wish, that what we have ventured to offer to public notice, as system, should be attempted to be carried into effect as such. We only recommend, for imitation, what we have actually ascertained by ample experience. The march of improvement in art and science in general, is step by step, from one particular to another. It is only when these particulars are numerous enough and more fully understood, that they are combined into system, then their practical effects become more certain and more complete. If what we shall have said, relative to the use of oxen, could induce others fairly to make the comparative experiments between them and horses, under the circumstances recommended, the benefit accruing to the experimenters, from the efficient labour and economy of the former, would amply remunerate the pains thus humbly taken, to invite them to the enterprise. Having candidly stated such of the merits of the ox as have come under our particular notice, we shall next advert to certain objections, that have been so unjustly made to him, by persons not fully acquainted with his properties. It has been objected to him, that he is not only slower than the horse, but unsteady and un-

certain in his disposition to labour.—Such uncertainty and unsteadiness can only be objected to him, by those who have not much experience in his use. If the ox be well broke, and constantly employed, as he should be, to be most profitable, and best enabled to stand the heat of our climate, he will never be reasonably objected to on these scores. The only way, to get an ox, to work every day in the year, except Sundays, is to inure him to do so, by the constant habit of working. Habit has much to do with the labour of man, as well as with that of mere animals; but there is no animal, to which it makes labour more familiar than to the ox.—Again, it has often been objected to him, that he is difficult to break, and very intractable when broke. This objection, like the rest, is founded in the ignorance of his nature. There is no animal more docile, or more manageable, when his docility is instructed by patient and careful attentions, and his capacity to be managed cultivated by the kind and ever affectionate treatment of his driver, of which he is sensible to a degree, that seems to fall little short of rationality. We come next, and lastly, to consider the economy attendant on his use. Here we are fully warranted by an ample experience, in stating that the ox will work, and pretty well too, the whole year round, whilst fed on oat straw, timothy or clover hay, or with grass, ruta бага, turnips or pumpkins in their respective seasons; whereas, the horse if he be wrought constantly, as he should be, to be wrought most profitably, requires to be fed with grain, and well fed too, together with grass or hay. The English, who best understand the management of this animal have the following saying, as a sort of maxim, in their agricultural writings.—“The horse, to be most profitable, should be wrought every day in the year, except Sundays, and fed with as much grain and hay or grass as he can eat.” All persons well acquainted with large farms, in our country, on which many horses are kept for necessary purposes, and where the produce is comparatively small, owing to the present reduced state of our lands, must well know, excepting tobacco culture, that the profits of such farms are nearly all sunk in the expense of their horses.

Our oxen wrought every day last winter, except Sundays, and the time they were severely afflicted with the tongue disease, fed only on oat straw as long as it lasted, afterwards on chaff and wheat straw, and were in pretty good order. In the spring, when the heavy ploughing commenced, we began to work them very hard on bran and chopped straw, the bran sometimes mixed with a little rye meal or shorts; but these always in half the quantity that was given to horses working in much lighter ploughs. Whenever, we give grain to oxen, it is in the state of meal, bran, or shorts, with a considerable quantity, of chopped straw, and always in half the quantity that we find ourselves compelled by our interest to give horses. The only time, according to our experience, it is necessary to give grain to the ox is in spring, when the sudden coming on of warm weather makes this animal weaker than at any other season. Even then, this expense might be avoided, by keeping a double or treble team, which we contemplate doing hereafter; then by changing the teams, hay would be amply sufficient. From the above stated facts, we would conclude, that where an exhausted farm is to be got up, economy, and here there is a loud call for



this virtue, requires that all the plough labour, and most of the other draft labour should be done by oxen. We hold it to be an incontrovertible position in good husbandry, that manuring and good ploughing are among the most efficient means of improving exhausted lands. On these two agencies we are inclined to lay the more stress, as plaster of Paris has not been successful, in our repeated and varied use of it. To obtain manure, it is equally an incontrovertible position, in good husbandry, that all the offal of the farm should be turned into manure, by feeding it away, and exposing such as will not be consumed in that manner, to the tread, dung and mire of animals. To the effecting of this valuable purpose, what animal is there better adapted than the ox, who when he has done this, is ready also, to draw the plough, or cart most economically and most efficiently. Perhaps the best system, in such circumstances, would be, to have all the horned cattle kept for this purpose, consist of milch cows and oxen. This would be more particularly proper, where the farm was so situated, that the surplus butter and veal could be disposed of to advantage. The oxen and milch cows could be fattened as they become old and disposed of in the same way, or used in part, on the farm, to feed labourers, more economically than with hog meat. The vacancies this caused, could be filled, by purchasing from drovers, of whom the best of the former, not fattened, could be got for fifteen or twenty dollars, a piece: whereas the best horses would cost at least one hundred. We would not have ourselves understood, as recommending oxen to the total exclusion of horses, in all states of the agricultural art. All we have said on this subject is relative, and to take judicious relative views of our art, is a principle of practical conduct of no small importance to those who expect success in it. We shall not presume to limit the destiny of this most noble animal to war, the course, the chase, nor the road, for the purposes of business or pleasure. We shall assign a variety of his race, at least, to the less dignified, but more useful destiny, of making food for the rest of the family and for his master too. His labour, then, can never be dispensed with in agriculture, more especially for the purposes of very powerful and quick draft. As relates to him, the most perfect policy would seem to be, to select the best individuals of the variety best suited to agriculture, to feed them in the best possible manner, consistent with economy, so as to give them their full health, spirit and strength, then to work them to the top of their strength and speed. To do this with profit, the farm should have made some considerable progress in improvement, a degree of improvement, which a very few farmers, in our neighbourhood have, as yet, arrived at. On the score of economy, we might have stated, consistently with the fact, the simplicity, strength durability and consequent cheapness of the gear of an ox plough. The readiness with which the team is attached to it, and the consequent saving of time, the more early going out to labour, owing to their not being curried and rubbed as horses, and their less dependence on morning feed are also, circumstances, that might have been stated on this score. They are circumstances well known to those who are practically acquainted with the use of oxen. Experi-

ence would enable us, to say something on the variety of horned cattle, from which the best oxen in our part of the world could most probably be procured; also, on the riding, yoking, breaking, sheltering, and fixing of them to their feed. But we have already trespassed prescribed limits, and, we fear, trespassed, by our dull detail, on

the patience of the board; we shall, therefore, conclude, by recommending unhesitatingly the free use of oxen on exhausted farms, which use, in combination with that of the best straw cutter and threshing machine, will possibly form the most promising system of economy, that can well be adapted to such farms.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ALBEMARLE.  
No. 4.

### On Shoeing Oxen,

*With a plan and description of the apparatus necessary to confine them during the operation,*

READ, October 10th, 1820.

Spotsylvania, Oct. 5th, 1820.

DEAR SIR,—A great objection to the use of Oxen for the draft in Virginia is, that during a considerable part of the winter their feet become so lacerated by the ice and frozen ground, that they are rendered unfit for service. The only effectual remedy for this evil is shoeing;—but owing to the supposed difficulty attending the operation, it is seldom resorted to. In New England, where almost all the draft-work is performed by oxen, the practice is universal—and notwithstanding the severity of the winters, their labours are never suspended.

Shoeing is a very simple operation and may be performed by any smith, without the least difficulty; but as the apparatus for confining the ox is unknown here, I have constructed the model of one, which together with that of the shoe, I herewith present to the Society. I would not however, arrogate to myself any credit for the invention, though I have made some improvement on it. In Massachusetts, it has been in use from time immemorial, and it is considered a necessary appendage to every smithery.

It is a frame of an oblong form 7½ feet long, 3½ feet wide, and 5½ feet high—consisting of four upright posts AAAA, and two horizontal bars on each side, BBBB, joined by mortices. In the bars of one end at the distance of ten inches from each other, are two perpendicular stanchions, the one fixed, the other move-

able and fastened by a key, D, which are let into the bars and form a headstall. The lower bars of the sides are 18 inches from the ground. Immediately under the upper bar on the right side, is a windlass EE, separated in the centre, working in the posts and a block K, let fall from the bar—with one end passing over, and moving upon the opposite beam, is a broad leather strap six feet long, attached by an iron ring at the other end to the staples in the windlass. To give sufficient stability, the posts may either be let into the ground or framed into sills with end braces.

The ox to be shod is led into the frame, and his head confined in the headstall. The strap is brought under the lower part of the belly and fastened to the windlass, by turning which, his hind feet are raised six or eight inches from the ground. The foot is then lashed by a cord to the upper surface of the lower bar. In this situation the shoes are easily set. By moving the strap till it comes near the fore legs, the other part of the body is raised and the shoes set on the fore-feet in like manner.

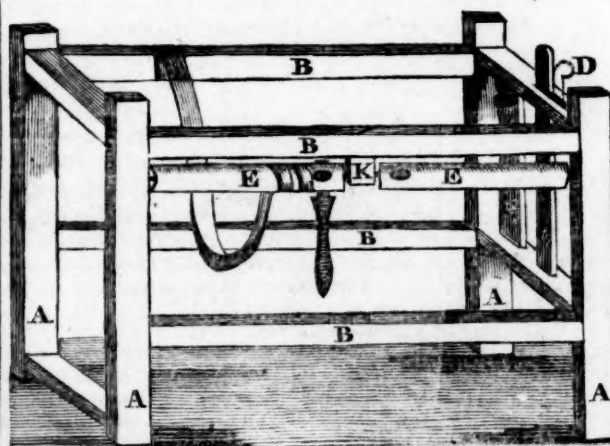
The shoe is the arc of a circle, of the thickness of a common horse-shoe, from half to three quarters of an inch wide, flattened to double that width at the hind part. The flat or hind part covers the frog, the tenderest part of the foot. The heel and toe are either corked or raised to make a level with the heads of the nails. Five or six nails are sufficient to secure it. Particular care must be taken by the smith in shoeing, that the toes of the shoes do not extend quite to the extremity of the hoof, in which case they infringe on each other, and by the motion of the feet are easily thrust off.

With much respect, I am dear sir,

Your very humble servant,

BEN. COLMAN.

PETER MINOR, Esq. Sec'y. of the }  
Agri. Society of Albemarle. }



#### To make a Pickle or Brine for Beef.

To 8 gallons of water, add half a pound of Salt Petre, one pound of Brown Sugar, and one quart of Molasses, with as much fine salt as will make it float an egg light, taking care that the salt dissolves least it be too strong—skim it well and it is fit for use.

Your Beef or tongues, should be put in cold water and remain 24 hours, then drained for an hour or two, previous to being put into the pickle.

Beef tongues, veal, or mutton for smoking, should not remain longer in the pickle than 10 days.

This pickle need not be boiled, (which operation tends to harden the meat) but will remain perfectly sweet till spring, when, after your beef is used or taken out; it will be found the very best in which to cure shad, giving them a delicious flavour and fine red colour throughout.

This receipt is offered with confidence to the Editor of the Farmer, as one of the best ever adopted. And, it is the opinion of the writer, will answer fully as well for pork, with the exception that the latter should not be soaked in water.

## ON SOILING.

Many inquiries have been made, as to when we expect to give the sequel of Mr. Quincy's experiments ON SOILING? We have answered, that none of our readers can be more anxious than ourselves to see it—but it is presumed, that we must all wait the publication by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society in January. In the meantime, that our readers may lose nothing of what he has said on this topic, we now give a letter from him which gives an account of his first experience and which ought to have been published, as it originally appeared, previous to the one which we copied some weeks since.

### ON SOILING.

In a Letter from the Hon. Josiah Quincy to the Corresponding Secretary.

Boston, 27th December, 1815.

SIR,—A writer, in the last number of the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository, (page 318) having invited the attention of our farmers to the subject of "the relative advantages of feeding cattle in the stable or farm yard, or sending them to pastures," I have thought it would have a tendency to attract still further attention to this practice, were I to state that all my milch cows have now for two years past been kept wholly in the mode by that writer suggested;—that is they have been, as it is technically called *soiled*. During the whole of that time they have never been allowed to run upon any pasture, but have been fed on green food, cut and carried to them in the stable or barnyard. I have thus kept during that period seven or eight cows, and I can thus far unequivocally express my conviction of the economy of the system. I am so entirely satisfied not only of the practicability, but of the advantage of it, that unless future experiment shall differ from the past, I shall never allow cattle of any kind to pasture upon my farm; and I am preparing to apply a modified system of soiling also to the keeping of Sheep. A practice of this kind cannot of course be advisable to that class of farmers, which unquestionably constitute the greater number in Massachusetts, whose farms contain tracts of land suitable for nothing else than pasturage, but to that class, whose farms are small, and who are stimulated by that correct ambition of possessing a little land highly cultivated, rather than a great deal miserably managed; to that class, also, whose entire farms are capable of being tilled or mown, particularly where their situation does not place them within any easy access to manures, the practice above proposed presents advantages of the most decided and unequivocal character.

My own experiments on this subject have been hitherto conducted upon a scale, which does not permit me to state any precise calculations on which my opinion of its advantages might be estimated. I am however perfectly satisfied of the following points:

1. That cattle may be kept and fattened equally well, and that they give as much milk, in this mode, if well conducted, as by any pasturage. Of this I am certain. Were I to express the full strength of my conviction, I should say they keep better, they fatten better, give more milk, and are far less liable to accidents of any kind.

2. That twice, at least, the same number of cattle may be kept, and better kept, upon the product of the same extent of land in this mode than could be if in pastures.

3. That the manure and the economy in land is an ample compensation, to say the least, for the labour.

All these and more advantages resulting from this practice are illustrated and enforced by very many European writers on agriculture. And I should not think of communicating any thing on the subject of this small experiment, were it not, that experiment and success in our country naturally strike the minds of practical men, with more force, and are likely to give more encouragement to other trials, than is possible to result from what is written in foreign countries.

The subject is well worthy the experiment of such farmers as I have above alluded to.

Whoever undertakes this practice should remember that preparation should be made of a regular succession of succulent crops, when the grass and clover begin to fail. Experiment upon this point is greatly to be desired so as to show what is best suited to our climate, and what species of food best intervenes between the early and later succulent crops of our farms. This period I have supplied by Indian corn, sown broadcast or in drill, cutting it when the tassels begin to shoot, and giving it green daily. This with the suckers, and tops taken from my Indian corn intended for harvest, with occasional aid from carrot and turnip tops at harvesting, have been sufficient for the purpose of my experiment. But before attempting this practice on any considerable scale, a greater knowledge of the vegetable food best suited for a succession of summer crops is desirable. And if any practical farmer has made any experiments upon the subject, he would undoubtedly render a service to our agriculture by communicating them.

[We have extracted the following additional information on this subject from an English Journal.—The reputation of the writer, (T. C. Curwen, Esq.) entitles it to all the weight a single experiment ought ever to have. It will moreover be found to accord with the statements of Mr. Quincy in favour of this system of feeding, and the prevailing opinion, we believe, in England.]

The Society instituted for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, having approved and sanctioned the system of soiling, I trust it may be satisfactory to them to receive a further proof of its utility than has hitherto been brought before the public. I am not acquainted with any experiments made to ascertain the practicability of rearing stock in the house. If such exist, they are without my knowledge.

I have to state to the society that my heifer was calved the 5th February 1812, and was reared in the house.

For the first five weeks it had a gallon of new milk daily. From that time to the middle of May two gallons, and from thence to the 16th June one gallon, and hay tea. It had grass and clover to the middle of October, and from thence to midsummer last was fed with turnips, mangel wurtzel, and wheat straw: during the remainder of the summer and autumn with refuse grass, and from October to the time it was killed in March last, it was fed with turnips and wheat-straw. As my purpose was to breed from it, every means was taken to check its progress to fatten; finding this could not be done, it was thought advisable to slaughter it on the 15th March, 1814.

The following is the statement of its weight:—

When taken from food it weighed 72 stones, of 14lb. each. After fasting 49 hours, it weighed 68 stone.

Blood weighed	-	-	2 stone 7 pounds,
Bag,	-	-	9 3
Hide,	-	-	4
Feet,	-	-	1 2
Puddings,	-	-	3 12
Head and Heart,	-	-	2 8
Tallow,	-	-	6 6
Carcass,	-	-	38 4

Total 68 0 or 952 lbs.

Sale.			
Carcass at 9s. per stone,	1.17	4	6
Tallow,	-	3	4 0
Hide,	-	1	7 0
Sundries,	-	0	5 0

1.22 0 6 \$97.77

Expense.			
Value when dropped,	1.2	2	0
Feeding,	-	12	18 6
Grain, \$51 11 cents, or	-	7	0 0

1.22 0 6 \$97.77

The manure should more than compensate for the labour. If the object had been to feed it, a greater

weight might have been obtained at little or no more expense. The colour of the meat was beautiful, and the grain and flavour could not be surpassed. As this is the first instance of beef being produced in so short a time, it has occasioned a good deal of speculation.

The heifer was of the short-horned breed. The success of this experiment has determined me to try it on a pretty extensive scale; if cattle can be stalled from their birth, and slaughtered at two years old, the farmer and the public will both be benefited.

I am very sanguine in the success of my experiment in rearing cattle. I have thirteen calves, and expect two more that shall be reared on the soiling system. [Reperitury of Arts, October, 1815.]

With a view to the season at hand, which is recommended to be the best for planting out fruit trees; we have selected the following communication from the Massachusetts Agricultural papers. On the part which relates to the management of the roots of trees, we would observe that, travelling a few days since in the Steam-Boat, with a member of Congress from Germantown, Pennsylvania, who appeared to possess great experience in the management of fruit trees; he is recollected to have remarked, that the roots of the tree when planted should be nicely straitened out and somewhat drawn upwards, because the dirt which should be applied, by little and little, would naturally settle down, pressing the roots a little below the point, at which they are originally left. Thus left a little raised they are depressed by the earth to their natural position—he further remarked, that they ought to be watered the second day as well as when first planted.

Many other remarks were made on the subject, of which we now only remember, that they were highly amusing and edifying. Edit. Am. Far. 10th November.

## Management of Fruit Trees.

BY EBENEZER FEEBLE, ESQ.

[To the Corresponding Secretary.]

Boston, January 22d, 1816.

SIR,—By a vote of the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture, I observe, each member is requested to furnish some original article, or one selected, to be inserted in their next agricultural report. As no part of the horticulture of our country is more neglected, or less understood than the management of fruit trees, I shall submit some remarks on that subject for the consideration of the publishing committee: and describe the manner in which I have managed my own trees, with success. Although similar methods have for some years been practised in Europe, we have but few instances of this mode of culture in this section of the United States.

The apple and pear tree will, at this time, be the subject of my communication, as producing the most valuable fruit. They give food in various ways, and liquors superior to any other that we have. The general adoption of these would preclude the use of ardent spirits, which tend to impoverish the people, and injure their morals. Trees crowded with wood, and enveloped with suckers, are as unpleasant to the eye, as they are injurious to the quality and quantity of the fruit they produce. We frequently observe old trees, with holes in them, particularly the apple; they are caused by neglect, or injudicious pruning. Limbs are frequently broken by the wind, and suffered to remain in that state until decayed—the farmer generally makes use of a hatchet or axe in pruning—limbs are cut at some distance from the body of the tree, and the stump not having aid from the sap, soon decays, which decay is facilitated by the rough surface caused by the instrument. It then serves to conduct water to the body, and there being no outlet for it, the tree decays, and is left with only a shell of wood and bark, and is then subject to be blown down by high winds.

The culture of trees has for some time engaged my attention, and has been my favourite pursuit. I have



been averse from making a public communication on this, or any other subject; but the solicitations of my friends have induced me to make known the result of my experience, however inadequate I may feel to give general directions in this branch of culture.

I shall communicate the manner in which I have succeeded with more than one thousand of my own trees, and I presume their present condition will justify the mode I pursued. I prefer the autumn to the spring for planting my trees. As soon as the foliage is off I remove them—the holes should be dug much larger than usual for their reception; the roots carefully pruned; the matted fibres cut off, as they would mould and decay, and prevent new ones from shooting—the long large roots should be shortened, to induce them to throw out new fibres; all broken and bruised parts should be removed. Care should be taken not to plant too deep—the roots should be extended, and spread in a horizontal direction—all top, or perpendicular ones, if not sufficiently elastic to conform to the others, should be cut off. It is preferable to raise the ground, and plant the tree high, rather than to suffer the root to shoot into the dead earth, deep planting retards the growth, and injures the fruit. Some well rotted manure mixed with top soil should be placed round the roots, the earth carefully pressed with the fingers, or a pointed stick, so that every vacancy may be filled, and that the earth may come in contact with all the fibres, without changing the position of the roots. If the ground is not moist, they should be watered at the time of planting. If they are set out in grassland, the ground can be made loose with an iron bar round the holes, a few inches from where the ground is broken; this will assist the roots when they extend.

The advantage of fall planting is, that the ground will settle round the roots previous to the frost setting in, and they be prepared to shoot in the spring, aided by the rains which prevail at that season. In this case, few will be lost. If planted in the spring, the drought and heat of summer will injure, if not destroy them, before the roots find their place; the farmer also has more leisure in the autumn, and the ground is in a better state to receive them.

Staking trees to secure them, I do not approve; they are frequently chaffed, unless well guarded with matts. As a substitute, I raise the ground a few inches above the level, round the trees, to keep them steady, and protect them from frost, leaving it hollow in the centre, to retain the rain and preserve moisture. When the tree has taken root the earth can be removed to its original situation.

The most approved distance to plant an orchard of apple trees, is forty feet in every direction. A less distance would answer for pears. The land can then be improved for other agricultural purposes. In grass land the soil can be cultivated round the trees and potatoes.

In pruning, all suckers should be grubbed up about the roots, and cut from the body of the tree, and the wood so thinned as to admit the air freely to pass. Every branch should have room without coming in contact with others; this will prevent their chaffing; sufficient bearing wood will then remain, to produce more, and better fruit.

Many of the branches of young trees may be separated with crotched sticks, with matts to protect the bark. The head can be formed with strings, fastened to pieces of refuse leather, from three to six inches long, as the size of the branch may require, and about one inch wide, with holes in the ends; the strings secured to the leather, may be extended to stakes driven into the ground, and the limbs brought down to a horizontal direction. In this position, more fruit will be produced, and the trees opened without mutilating them.

The only tools necessary for pruning are, a saw with the teeth set wide, a chisel and knife. All large limbs should be cut close to the body of the tree, or to a strong leading shoot that will draw up the sap—smaller branches should also be pruned to a bad, and if the wood is made a little concave, it will assist the wound in closing. All large limbs should first be cut at a distance from where the limb is to be pruned, as

the weight would be unmanageable, and apt, on its separation, to strip the bark. The under part of all branches should first be cut through the bark previous to its being pruned. After a limb has been cut by the saw, make the wood and edges of the bark smooth with some sharp instrument, and immediately cover the part with composition, to exclude the weather, and keep insects from the wound.

I have found tar and ochre the best ingredients for a composition, they are not expensive, and are easily procured. Pounded brick sifted, and pulverized chalk, with tar, have been recommended; either of them would answer. Let the mixture be of the consistency of grafting clay, the wood and bark will remain bright under it, and will not obstruct the wound in closing.

The general impression is, that trees must be pruned at particular seasons of the year. I have pruned at all times of the year without being partial to any, and with the aid of the composition, have been successful.

The injudicious method practised in gathering fruit, is more destructive in its consequences, than is generally understood; the blossom buds for the succeeding year are placed at the side of the foot stalk of the fruit, and if the spurs are broken, no fruit on that part will be produced the next season.

The general method of gathering apples for cider, is, shaking the tree, and thrashing the branches with poles, the former will answer when the fruit is at maturity: they will then drop without injury to the buds. Poles should never be used, but with a hook at the end covered with cloth, or matt, to prevent wounding the bark, they then serve to shake the small limbs. Particular attention is required in gathering winter fruit. They should be taken in the hand, the finger placed at the foot stalk, and by bending it upwards the fruit is gathered with ease, and without injury; they should be removed from the gathering basket to the cask prepared for them with great care; if bruised they soon decay, the less they are moved the better. When in barrels they should be placed in a cool, dry, shaded situation above ground, and remain until they are in danger of being injured by frost, and then removed to the cellar.

#### SINGLE HORSE CARTS MOST USEFUL.

[From Dickson, on Agriculture, vol. 1.]

A very intelligent correspondent, who has paid much attention to the importance of carts in husbandry, found, in constructing single horse ones, that the capacity of wagons was by no means a just rule for them. From those with which he was acquainted, containing in the bed or buck ninety-six cubical feet, being twelve feet long, four feet wide, and two feet in depth; it was supposed, that to give one horse the fourth of the load of four, it would only be necessary to give them the space of twenty-four cubical feet, or to make them four feet by three, with a depth of two feet; but it was soon observed that the power of a horse was so much greater in working singly than in a team, that they might be enlarged so as to have the dimensions of five feet one inch in length of buck (or bed of the cart,) three feet seven inches in breadth, two feet in depth, and to contain thirty-five cubical feet and a fraction, making the proportion of the one horse cart to the four horse wagon as thirty-five to ninety-six—more than one to three. This places in a striking point of view, the advantage such small carts have over large ones in the quantity of work performed. The great superiority of these carts is rendered still more obvious and striking by the observation, "that two horses with single horse carts will draw as much as three horses with one cart; that a common carrier at Carlisle, who many years employed a wagon, has laid it aside, and now uses single horse carts only; as he finds he can, by these means, carry much greater weights."

It is likewise supposed that the superior goodness of the roads in Cumberland, may be ascribed to the general use of single horse carts; and that wherever wagons are employed they are the destruction of roads, especially where the country is hilly, and where they are under the necessity of having the wheels locked, as in such cases the ground is in a

manner ploughed up by them. The same objections are equally strong against large and heavy carts as they produce the same bad effects, only in a somewhat less degree.

It is, in short, strongly contended that wagons cannot be advantageous to the farmer, since the same number of horses with single horse carts will draw much more than when yoked six or eight together. Besides, it is conceived that single horse carts are superior on other grounds; they are loaded and unloaded with greater ease and convenience, and are more handy for almost every purpose, and six or eight of them may be managed by a man and a boy at a very little expense.

In these carts too, the size of the wheels can be adapted with the greatest exactness to the height of the horses, and be placed with more convenience in regard to the centre of gravity of the load, by which the draught is considerably lessened.

In fact, the Cumberland farmers, and those of some other counties, are fully convinced that very great advantages are derived from using carts of the single horse kind. This sort of cart has lately been compared in many different points of view by an accurate observer, and found in almost every instance to be greatly superior to wagons or tumbrils for almost all the various purposes of the farm.

From the (London) Farmers' Journal.

#### ON UNDER-DRAINING.

Norfolk, August 1, 1820.

SIR—Agreeably to the intimation with which I closed my last letter, I shall now intrude on your columns a few more remarks on Under-draining. I shall, in the outset, beg to observe, that I write to support no pre-conceived theory, but to state, in a miscellaneous manner, such thoughts as have occurred to me, or such observations as I have made upon the subject, at various times. I do not undervalue theories, but I do not attempt the task of forming one.

The implements used in draining are usually spades of different constructions and a scoop. I shall offer some remarks on the defects I have observed, and point out my own ideas on the formation of the lower spade: I confine my remarks to that as being of the most consequence. This spade, I conceive, is frequently made far more cumbersome and unwieldy than is necessary; from 12 to 14 inches appears to me a sufficient length for the blade; the breadth on the top from two and a half to three inches, and at the point one inch and a quarter. Nothing, in my opinion, is more essential to the cutting of a drain clean and regular, than keeping the spade properly squared at the point for cutting, not having the corners rounded off, giving it the appearance of the end of a crow-bar. The slightly elevated ridge, necessary for giving additional strength, should be on the front-side, not behind, for when so placed it prevents the cutting the sides of the drain level; the edges of the spade for the same reason should not be too thick. Should the slight structure of this tool appear objectionable on a stony soil, I must beg to observe that it is not intended for breaking stones; for that purpose an old mattock, or pick, or even an old fold drift, will answer very well, by breaking them through as they lay in the earth, thereby obviating the necessity of forming holes in the sides, by the forcing large stones out of the drain, by which its strength is most materially injured. Stones almost universally break easily before exposure to the air.

Particular care ought to be taken to avoid too

great a width in under drains intended to be filled up with thorns or brush-wood. When too wide, so soon as the wood begins to decay, the earth above it begins to settle; and the distance of the sides offering but a slight resistance, the accidental treading of a horse, or pressure of any other considerable weight, forces the earth to the bottom of the drain. The great quantity of rotten wood likewise that is washed downwards by the stream, is very liable to accumulate, and interrupt the passage of the water. These inconveniences are in a great measure obviated by cutting the drains as narrow as possible, with tools not wider than those I have recommended: when filled up, any considerable weight pressing on them will not injure them, but even add to their strength; for the clay or earth, from the narrow wedge-like form of the drain, is prevented settling to the bottom, and is supported by the sides in a manner similar to the key-stone of an arch. A much smaller quantity of wood is necessary for filling up a narrow drain, a consideration of much importance on many farms where materials for draining are scarce; and the drains are equally efficacious for carrying off the land the small quantities of water collected in each. I have frequently observed drains filled almost to the top with brush-wood, much of which is of no service, when first put in, and when rotten, it leaves so large a cavity, and the shell of earth covering the drain so thin, that the first considerable pressure breaks through and stops the drain. It is a very prevalent custom to drag a cart or tumbril, partly loaded, with one wheel all the way in the recently filled up drain; a system sometimes, perhaps, beneficial, but frequently decidedly injurious. Whenever the soil has many large spots, or veins of sand, or fissures filled with any adventitious substances, and the season wet, the wheel forces the wood, with the mould above it, into the soft bottom or sides, and often spoils the drain. I have myself seen the wheel (one of six inches in width) sink quite to the bottom of the drain from the yielding of the soft sides, and turn the wood out with the edge of the rim. I should recommend that the labourer should first cut the wood of proper lengths, &c. for putting into the drain, and lay it within reach by the side (or his partner may cut it as he wants it); then beginning at the end, lay the wood at a proper thickness, and walking in the drain, tread it in as he goes along; afterwards walking on the straw in the same manner. When several under-drains are led into one, the main drain ought to be two or three inches the deepest, and care ought to be taken in selecting the best wood for filling it up.

When it fortunately occurs that stones may be gathered off the land, or picked out of a gravel pit, in sufficient quantities for draining such parts of the farm as require it, I conceive they ought to be preferred to brush-wood, flags, or any thing else, excepting draining tiles. I am sorry, in this particular, to be obliged to differ from the honourable and intelligent author of the "Code of Agriculture," who, in his section on draining (page 184, 1st edition) observes, that "small stones only answer for short drains, and are seldom effectual for any length of time." In taking the liberty of differing from so distinguished an agriculturist, it

appears highly necessary that some reasons should be given. When draining or ditching, it is not at all uncommon to fall in with a quantity of stones, either disposed as a thin stratum, or apparently filling up some accidental fissure in the clay. In whatever way a quantity of stones are disposed in a strong soil, there is a certainty of water issuing from them, not only when first cut through, but at any time afterwards, in a wet season. If stones thus accidentally, disposed, and very often to appearance perfectly combined with clay, serve as conductors of the water, surely when put in regular drains, free from dirt, they may be expected to answer the same purpose, and for the same length of time. If proper care be taken in depositing the stones in a drain, and in covering them up, it appears almost impossible for any adventitious substances to get in among them (that is, on a clay soil,) as they are not liable to derangement from any pressure on the top. Stones I consider are equally adapted with the other more usual materials used for draining, for conveying away the water, as no under drain can be sufficiently capacious for conveying a large stream of water. I should, however, recommend the cutting of drains to be filled up with stones, something wider than those intended for brush wood. I know drains which have been made near thirty years, and filled with stones, in a soil abounding with veins of sand, which at this time run as well as ever.

I have written a long letter (that is for a farmer,) and have not concluded the remarks I thought of making: at another opportunity I may again intrude, and will endeavour to be somewhat less prolix.

I am your most obedient,  
A TENANT FARMER.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Journal.

#### AN EXPERIMENT TO PRESERVE TURNIPS FROM THE FLY.

London, August, 9th 1820.

SIR—

I have just become acquainted with the result of an experiment made with salt for destroying the turnip fly, which, from its complete success, I think well worth your attention, particularly as there are yet many crops of turnips which may perhaps be saved by its adoption.

It consisted in merely sowing a small quantity of finely powdered rock salt upon the plant at the very time that the insects were proceeding with their ravages: their farther progress was immediately stopped, and the crop is now in as flourishing a condition as possible. Although I have not the permission of my friend to publish his address, I send it you annexed: and should you think it worth while to write to him, he will answer you more particularly as to the quantity, &c. &c. than I can do.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
F. A.

We doubt not but that many of our readers would instantly try this, if they had the article at hand. We shall be glad to find the fact verified by future trials, and hope to hear from the gentleman referred to, the detail of his experiments.—*Edit.*

From the Massachusetts Agricultural Journal.

Quincy, Nov. 20, 1817.

SIR—It seems yet to be a question among practical farmers, whether an equal product can be obtained by planting potatoes cut, as by planting them whole. Accidentally a fact fell under my observation the last summer, which has gone far to satisfy my mind on the subject, and I therefore, in conformity to the wishes of the board, communicate it.

I had directed my farmer to plant a field of about six acres, with the large red potato, called the Spanish potato. Being not present when he began to labour, he had planted a part of two rows, with the *potato whole*. Coming upon the field, I objected to the practice as wasteful, and directed him to cut the residue of the potatoes, and to put a mark so as the place where the whole potatoes were planted might be known. In the whole course of vegetation, the whole potatoes had a decided superiority over every other part of the field, in the vigour and size of the tops; and, at harvest, on comparing these rows with the adjoining rows, the product of the rows planted whole, exceeded an equal extent of the adjoining rows, planted with cut potatoes, *more than one third*.\* There was nothing in the cultivation, or state of the land, which could produce this difference, except the circumstance of the one having been planted whole, and the other cut.

Respectfully, I am,  
your obedient servant,  
JOSIAH QUINCY.

\* An experiment similar to the one here related, was made, by Mr. David Williamson, on the Reister's town road, and was attended, as we have understood, with a like result. *Editor.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

"None can tell so well where the shoe pinches as he who wears it."

MY DEAR SIR—

I too am a philanthropist, I too would ameliorate the condition of the poor, not by *adding* to, but by *relieving* them from some of the heavy "clogs" and burthens they are doomed to bear in this life. My walk is in a more humble sphere than that of Mr. Custis, the advocate of the shoes which bear the name of his *favourite estate*, "*Arlington*,"—I too unhappily have my slaves on my little farm, but I thank my God that they are not so numerous as to prevent my becoming acquainted with all their wants and distresses, and the best means of ministering to their comfort. I too have *tried* these shoes. have heard the opinion of the wearers, and consider myself as well if not better qualified to speak concerning their merits as their maker, or the gentleman who advocates them.

First then, of "Mr. Entwistle, clog maker from Europe." (*England* I presume) I have but little to say,—it is proper to labour in one's vocation, as Falstaff says, and if it is his "vocation" let him then continue to labour "diligently in his calling in *King-street*"; and let him enjoy the privilege of the rest of the craft in puffing off his articles—those who choose to buy, let them buy, to this I can have no objection, *if the buyer is to be the wearer*.—But when a highly distinguished gentleman, comes forward and dignifies this *English* imitation of the *French sabot* with the name of his seat; and recommends these heavy clogs "*properly ironed*," as a means of adding to the "comfort of the industrious, and the toils of the slave," I cannot help exclaiming with "*the Dominie*" (Dominie Sampson) Prodigious!—There is a



great deal in names, and things, as well as men, have oft been "Nichodemus'd into nothing"—The uncouth name of clog would never bring Mr. Entwistle's *Sabots* into demand: but "*Arlington*" sounds as well as *Wellington*, or as the French pronounce it *Villamont*—and we all know, ("Dandies" as well as others,) what fashions that has given a sanction to. The "clatter of the clog" is no greater than that of the iron heel, and the whalebone corset, and knee stiffeners, will not yield the palm to "hickory waistcoats" and "white-oak pantaloons."

But to the point—Mr. Entwistle, in proof of their durability, says he, put sixteen pair of soles to one pair of upper leathers in eight years, and that the wearer was a muslin "weaver;" now all I have to say on this subject is, that a pair of "white-oak pantaloons, or even Hudibras's breeches would have required thrice as many bottoms in the same length of time, and I doubt not whether, "a hickory waistcoat" worn by a weaver would not also have equally required repairs from the carpenter, both being much more subject to wear and tear than his shoes.

Mr. E. thought it necessary to inform us that the man seldom used his feet, but for the purpose of moving his treadles. To a weaver, as a make-weight, I acknowledge their utility; but not so to the poor slave, who has to drag his weary limbs from morn to "dusky night" "in the moss and on the moor," (or in other words) "through the mud and through the mire"—mounted on heavy clogs of several inches thick, stumbling along at the risk of his neck at every step; sticking fast in the mud, or having his feet slide from under him on the ice, bruising and crippling himself every instant, because his master insists that "properly ironed" clogs of several pounds weight, add more to his comfort, and are more economical, than shoes weighing only a few ounces. Imagine to yourself, my dear sir, a gang of negroes on a cold and drizzly morning, going to their labour, each one equipped in these said "*Arlington*" clogs. The overseer outstripping them, even in his *mail's pace*, from the advantage of his light soled shoes—"Come along Dick"—"Yes massa, as soon as I find a few old nails to nail up my shoe"—"Well, but Tom, what keeps you?"—"Why I loss my soal entirely, somebody burn him"—"Well, but Sam, what are you setting there about?"—"Why I got no shoe"—"What the devil has become of your shoe?"—"Aunt Lucy take um to bake hoe cake, and burn um all up"—Finally, however they get underway—one sticks fast in the mud and loses his shoes altogether—one is more fortunate in saving the upper leathers, with the loss of the soal—and after a thousand mishaps, twisting ankles, breaking shins and noses, they arrive at the scene of their labours. The first thing then is to drive a few more nails in the shoes, and another half hour is lost in tinkering. The weather grows warmer, and as the labour progresses, the feet and legs grow more tired—the "*Arlington*" clogs are thrown off to rot in the field, and master either lets poor negro grow barefoot for the rest of the winter, or at the expense of another dollar gets him another pair.

Now, Sir, two pair of good substantial leather soled shoes, will last a working hand a whole winter (in summer they want no shoes) with one pair on his feet, and one pair dry at home, he can always be comfortable. Such shoes can now be bought for 95 cents or a dollar, which is something less than the price of a pair of "*Arlington*" shoes. The repairs which they require every plantation negro can give them. They are easy to the feet, tighter, lighter, and every way more conducive to comfort than the other; and if such rigid economy is necessary to be observed on things of so little cost, and so conducive to comfort as are shoes. I could easily prove that those with leather soles, are more economical than those of wood and iron. The first cost is in favour of the leather soled, and setting aside the comfort they afford, what difference is there *except* the soles? "for all the rest is leather."

There is another consideration which weighs with

\* They should have been called "*Entwistle*" shoes.

me in favour of leather soles. One would think from the remarks of Mr. Custis, that "the sports of the toe" were confined exclusively to the "Pavillions of the great!" to the polished "disciples of Vestris!" Would you deny to the poor slave, after the toils of the day, the pleasure of "dancing over the potato hole," to the rude tune of his Banjo? and do you think that in this amusement, the "*Arlington* ironed clog" is better suited to his weary limbs, than to those of the pampered "votaries of pleasure, fashion, and folly?" If you have ever visited the quarters of the negro, at the times allotted for amusements, or at a corn husking, I will venture to assert that if they were not compelled to wear "*Arlington* shoes," or some other contrivance equally destructive of pleasure, you have seen more happy faces, more grins expressive of pleasure than ever embellished a palace; and if they did not "trip on light fantastic toe,"

They "shuffled double trouble" o'er  
As if they'd grind quite through the floor,  
"Hoe corn and dig potatoes too"  
Was danced by all the jovial crew.

And who would deny them this pleasure, for the doubtful saving of five or ten cents per annum. Away then with your "clogs," by whatever appellation they may be dignified!—An iron yoke around the neck, "called by any other name" (an "*Arlington*" cravat for instance) would be none the lighter—"Slavery thou art a bitter draught"—and all that adds to his burden, or takes from the slave, any part of his slender share of comfort, is loathsome to me, whatever the cause, be it experimental humanity, or mistaken economy. If we must abridge, let it be in our own comforts, not in those of our dependents.

CRISPIANUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

SIR—A Roman husbandman, who cultivated his little domain with singular skill and success, was accused by his envious neighbours of using magic and conjuration in producing his wonderful crops; and they succeeded in bringing him to trial for his deeds of darkness. On the appointed day he appeared before his judges, followed by his stout and ruddy daughters, and his athletic and sinewy sons, with their teams and implements. His horses were large, and fat, and powerful; his various tools, of the best construction, and in perfect order; and his ploughs much larger and stronger, were calculated to work double the depth of those of his envious neighbours.—Here, said old FURIUS CRESINUS to his judges, showing his vigorous girls, his powerful boys, his fat and strong horses, and his huge plough and sharp share; here are the incantations, by which I make my farm produce double as much as my neighbours.—You can pronounce the judgment of the Court, and will permit old Cresinus still to be fond of deep ploughing.

I am a tiller of the earth, and consider every fellow labourer my brother, whom I am ever ready to assist with all my heart; and I much fear that your North Carolina correspondent will still be choaked after he has obtained the *Rid Plough*, or any other plough, that is encumbered with a coulter; which I pronounce one of the most useless pieces of iron, that ever was hammered.—Some coulter ploughs choak less than others—but there never has been, nor will there ever be one invented, that will not choak. The mould board is the only effectual *rid*—all coulters that ever I have seen or heard of, are placed forward of the point of the mould board; some farther than

others; but they are all forward of the rid, and make an acute angle with the beam, and if there be any filth to collect, so certainly will this coulter collect it; and accumulate it in the angle it makes with the beam whether acute or obtuse, till the plough is forced out of the ground.

What then is to be done?—Why, throw away this expensive, useless, worse than good for nothing; this injurious, choking, vexatious, and time killing appendage, called a coulter.—Then the next thing to catch grass and weeds, &c. is the rod, or where there is no rod, the standard. But both the rod and the standard are some distance behind the point of the mould-board and share, and before the filth can collect between the beam and the rod or standard, the real rid, or share and mould board are acting upon it, and turning it aside.

If your North Carolina friend will send to Connecticut for a Deagan flushing plough of a size for four oxen; (and I rather think he may find them in Norfolk, Virginia, he will obtain the ugliest thing he ever saw in the shape of a plough, with neither coulter nor coulter point to the share—and if, when he is going to start it, he will tie the two ends of a timber chain, one to each end of the main swingletree, so that the double of the chain will reach back to the point of the mould board—as the plough moves through the broom grass, &c. the double of the chain will bend it forward; his plough will move evenly on, turning every thing over, and will finish two furrows to one of any plough with a coulter in the universe, especially if the broom grass or filth is two or three feet high and thick. I state facts, which all Connecticut will attest.—But if he does not like an ugly plough, let him send to Thomas Freeborn, No. 210, Front Street, New York, for a 2, 3, or 4 horse plough, as he may want—and he will obtain the handsomest and best finished plough made in America, and probably not much inferior in real excellence to any in the world. He can get one with a coulter, but so constructed as to work either with or without it; and after making a fair trial in his grassy ground with and without the coulter, he will never after bother his ploughmen with another, unless he would flush a piece of lately clear, rooty ground. In that case alone the coulter is useful, as a guard to the plough.

After obtaining one of these ploughs, if his ground will bear being turned seven inches or deeper, let him attend to some valuable communications made to you, if I recollect right, by the AMERICAN CINCINNATUS, the venerable Col. Pickering, about deep ploughing, and only one turning for a crop.

I am satisfied by my own practice, that if you turn down a turf effectually in March or April, roll and harrow the surface, plant your corn, and cultivate it with the roller and harrow early, and with the harrow all the season, never touching it with the plough after the planting furrows have been opened, that you may make as good corn, if not better, than if you had used the plough.—And one harrow working over as much surface as three ploughs, you may till it so much more frequently, that your ground will be better cultivated, and kept cleaner, than by the use of the plough. Another very great advantage



is that the turf, &c. which you turned under, has never been disturbed; but has remained where it ought to decompose properly, to nourish your corn roots, and to improve your ground.

Very respectfully, your obd't serv't,  
Nov. 20th, 1820. FURIUS CRESINUS.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

*A much neglected object of Rural Economy.*

J. S. SKINNER, Esq.

Knowing your great desire to serve your Agricultural friends and subscribers, by affording them such information as will benefit your fellow citizens, I offer you the following communication.

At this season of the year, there is annually killed many thousand hogs in this state, as well as in every state of the union; but it is not so well known as economy demands, that the Bristles on the hog large or small, are of real service to the brush makers, and will at all times command a ready sale, when cleaned and tied up in small bundles.

Many persons neglect at killing time to save them, under the impression, that when the hog is scalded, the bristles are rendered useless to brush makers; no injury results from scalding them, when they are taken from the hog's back, or of repeating it in cleansing them, should convenience not permit it to be done at killing time. Thousands of pounds weight are annually lost or thrown on the heap for manure, under the erroneous impression, that bristles fit for sale, should be plucked from the hog before scalding; this is a tedious and very laborious mode of obtaining them, and possesses no advantage to the brush maker, whatever: they also suppose that the bristles must all be long, to command a sale; it is true, they are certainly worth more to the manufacturer than if they were short ones, but the difference is not such as to justify those which are short being thrown away. The most expeditious mode of cleaning them, is to have them put into a basket or box, when they are pulled off the hog, immediately upon coming out of the scalding water, let the roots and skin be laid all one way, and not mixed promiscuously together, until the slaughtering is over; children black or white may then manage them very easily, and soon render them fit for market, and the best mode of doing this is to have a tub with hot water, so that the hand can be put in without danger of scalding; let the bristles remain five minutes in this tub of water, and take out as many as can be easily-held in the left hand, and with a coarse redding comb, the skin and wool will be immediately disengaged, and a rinse or two in clean warm water, will render them fit for drying, when they are to be put out in rows about a half inch thick until dry, which by turning twice in the course of one day, will be sufficient, they must then be put into bundles of four or five ounces, and are then fit for market.

In Pennsylvania, Jersey, New York, and all the eastern states, as beautiful bristles are produced as any that are imported, and those farmers and others, who wish well to the prosperity of these United States, ought to give their assistance in rendering us independent of Europe for raw materials, as far as circumstances will admit.

Many a fine Christmas present, could be procured by attention to the bristles which are lost on every farm, when they are neglected.

Farmers in Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, and other states westward, it is hoped will give some attention to this neglected branch of economy, and if no other motive prompts them, let the bristles be given to their children or servants, as a reward for good conduct, who by following the mode of cleansing them as above suggested, will find their labour and care handsomely remunerated, by selling them to the store-keepers, in their immediate neighbourhood or sending them to Baltimore, where cash from 25 cents to 50 cents per pound, according to quality, can be obtained for any quantity.

Very respectfully, your obedient serv't,  
J. K. STAPLETON.

## THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1820.

**TO DELINQUENT SUBSCRIBERS.** It is well known that according to the terms of this journal, subscribers are required to make payment in advance; experience has proved, that papers which depend on subscription only, and not on the profits of advertising, cannot long endure, whatever may be their claims on public support, unless they strictly adhere to the rule of requiring the money to be paid in advance. From this rule we are determined not to depart, even if we should have but 100 subscribers. It is much more reasonable, that one thousand persons should trust us for the amount of subscription, than that an individual Editor, should credit one thousand people for four or five dollars; for supposing the one or the other to be so neglectful or dishonest as not to comply with his engagements;—the subscriber, in the one case, would lose his four dollars, merely, whereas the editor, in the other, would lose \$4,000, and perhaps be utterly ruined;—but rigidly as we have intended and endeavoured to exact payment in advance; it has happened, that in some cases subscribers are still in debt to us. A becoming respect to those who have honourably and punctually complied, by the payment of their subscription in advance, makes it proper that we should explain how it has happened, that others have received the paper, who have not thus complied. It has then generally happened in this way, some tried friend of the establishment in his zeal to promote the circulation of the journal, has informed the editor, that his friend, Mr. —, has expressed a desire to have it, or has desired him to write for it, promising, that when the paper was received, and the terms made known, they would be fulfilled, and the friend thus writing, expressed his conviction, that the person thus desiring to have the paper, would faithfully remit the money on the receipt of the paper; in such cases we have felt it to be a delicate matter in respect to a known and tried friend, to refuse to send the paper to the person designated by him, yet in several such cases, we have not been paid, and the editor is exposed to the suspicion of having voluntarily departed from his rules, in favour of particular persons. Now we once again distinctly offer to these gentlemen, who have taken the benefit, such as it is of our labours and neglected to pay, that if they will return us all the papers they have received in good order, stating that they have been deceived as to their value, and found them not worth the money, in that case, we will send them a receipt in full. But if on sight of this, they do not accept this offer, we shall expect them of course, as honest men, to pay us, as for "goods had and received." The case is a plain one and requires no mincing phraseology or circumlocution. You have had the

fruits of my labour, my duty and promises to you, have been faithfully and zealously discharged. The conclusion is obvious.

**Present Prices of Country Produce in this Market.**  
Actual sales of WHEAT—WHITE 76 to 80 cts.—RED 72 to 74 cts.—OLD CORN, 35 to 36 cts.—NEW do. 32 to 33 cts.—RYE, 46 cts.—OATS, 26 cts.—FLAX SEED, 95 to \$1 BARLEY, 45 to 50 cts.—HAY, per ton \$18—STRAW, do. \$7 to \$8—FLOUR, from the wagons \$4—WHISKEY, from do. exclusive of barrels, 27 cents—including of barrels, 30 cts.—PORK, per bbl. \$14—BEEF, do. \$11 to \$13—BUTTER, per lb. 25 cts.—EGGS, per doz. 20 to 25 cts.—VEAL, per lb. 6 to 8 cts.—LAMB, per quarter, 37½ to 50 cts.—BEEF, per lb. best butcher's 8 to 10 cents.—CHICKENS, per doz. \$2 50—TURKEYS, 75 cts. to \$1—GEESSE, 50 to 62½—HAMS, 12 to 14 cts.—MIDDINGS, 10 cents.—POTATOES, 37½ cts.—LIVE CATTLE, \$4 50 to \$6. LONDON WHITE LEAD, \$4 25—AMERICAN do. \$3 75—BOILED OIL, \$1 37½—FEATHERS, 50 to 62½ cts.—TAR, \$2—TURPENTINE, soft, \$2—SPIRITS, do. 55 cents.—PITCH, \$2 25—LARD, 11 to 12 cents—SHINGLES, best deep Creek, \$8 50—Do. small \$4 75—FLOORING PLANK, 5 4 \$27—COTTON, Upland, 17 to 19 cts.—Maryland Tobacco, 12 hhds, from Calvert County, 7 crop at \$7 per cwt.—5 do. do. seconds, at \$5—Virginia Tobacco, 10 hhds, very good, (old crop) at 8½ cts.

## WAKEFIELD'S TRANSLATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

CUMMINGS & HILLIARD, Boston, (Mass.)  
Have just published a Translation of the New Testament by Gilbert Wakefield, B. A. from the second London edition, 1 vol. 8vo. [From the proposals for subscription] Since the period when our common version of the Scriptures was made, biblical literature has been much advanced. The various translations of different parts of the Bible, which have been produced by several learned men, are some of the results and proofs of the progress of Theological knowledge. Among them Wakefield's Translation of the New Testament ranks very high for its fidelity and fairness. His fair genius and uncommon classical attainments, peculiarly qualified him for the task, and the superiority of his translation to all other English versions is generally admitted. It has been less subject than any other to the charge of want of critical correctness, or to that of perversion from theological prejudice, and will be found inferior to none in the neatness and simplicity of expression which are so important in a translation of the scriptures. Of all aids to an exact interpretation of the sacred writings, every Christian must feel anxious to avail himself; and the re-publication of this favourite work of so distinguished a scholar, which is now entirely out of print, and can only be procured accidentally, and at a very high price, will it is thought, be of important service in promoting religious knowledge.

Nov. 25.

## English Thrashing Machines.

For sale, English Thrashing Machines, which require to work them two or four horses, two men and two boys; they are of a simple construction, may be put together without the aid of a mechanic, and are not apt to get out of order; a number of them have been imported for different gentlemen in this state and Virginia, who have been universally pleased with the machine, and consider it an invaluable acquisition to their farms—it has been made to thrash out twenty six bushels of rye per hour, and from fifteen to eighteen bushels of wheat per hour. The machinery is of excellent workmanship, and the casting so true, that no accident has in any instance been known to occur.

The subscribers have now for sale, two of these machines, one which can be easily removed from farm to farm, the other intended to be stationary.  
WM. DAWSON, Jun. & CO.  
No. 47 S. Gay Street, Baltimore, where a working model of the machine may be seen.